

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A spinal needle system that signals entry into the epidural space and stabilizes the dura mater. The system includes a cannula having at a distal tip an annular surface surrounding a terminal port and at least one barb projecting at an angle from the annular surface of the cannula for grasping and controlling the tissue. Each barb is formed having a sharp edge configured to grasp the tissue as the tubular member is rotated about its longitudinal axis. One implementation of the system includes a plurality of unidirectional barbs spaced around the annular surface of the cannula. The system includes an indicator mechanism that gives a visual and a tactile indication of when the cannula encounters and penetrates tissue. The system facilitates the appropriate placement of an epidural or subdural catheter or patch of any kind.

D:\NrPortbl\Manage\ATHENAP\245720_1.DOC